



southern california dx club

June 2004

CHANGING the RULES

FCC Proposes Wide-Ranging Changes to Amateur Service Rules--Not Restructuring

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 15, 2004--The FCC has released an "omnibus" *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* that seeks comments on a wide range of proposed Amateur Service (Part 97) rules changes. The *NPRM* is *not* related to the three amateur licensing restructuring petitions--including one from ARRL--for which the comment period ended April 23 (see ["FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio Restructuring Plans"](#)). The FCC also denied several petitions for rule making aimed at altering portions of the Amateur Radio regulatory landscape and ordered minor changes in Part 97 that become effective June 1. The *NPRM* is a result of a dozen petitions for rule making, some filed more than a year ago and a few dating back as far as 2001. Comments on the proposals put forth in WT Docket 04-140 are due by Tuesday, June 15, with reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's ["Novice refarming"](#) plan.

League Files "Plan for the Next Decade" with FCC

The ARRL in late January filed a *Petition for Rule Making* asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop

at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). Among those changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not to mandate Morse testing for HF access.

be insufficient for the Commission to address those issues in a vacuum," the League said in its petition, which it called "a plan for the next decade." The ARRL said that plan's overall intention is "to

ARRL Comments on BPL Plan, Considered Comments"

The ARRL will comment by the Monday, May 3, filing deadline on the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) *Notice of*

Declines to Grant LF Allocation Channelized Access to 5-MF

A BPL home demonstration in the District of Columbia, the amateur service

This excerpt is from the ARRL web page. We strongly suggest that all Hams read and understand the changes proposed for our bands. Check out: <http://www.arrl.org>

Soap Box— Words from our President



Hello to all!

June is upon us, one half year has gone by and I can't remember anything that I should remember, I guess I'm getting older and hopefully wiser?

Onward to great DXpedition, Iraq is on the air

for the time being and a few other countries I haven't worked. I am going to build my car's antenna system for HF using HI - Q system. We are getting ready to plant our tower, we need to do this before the inspector comes out to check our trench for electrical to the garage. We are getting the new Fluid Motion 6 - 40 to be delivered in July sometime and that will be exciting to watch or participate in putting together, can't wait to try it out.

I hope everyone had a great time at the meeting in May, I hear that Jim did a great job practicing on being Prez. Missed a few people I wanted to see, but I'll catch them at the picnic.

I hope you all are coming to the picnic great raffle prizes, great food, and best of all great company. See you there. Keep safe!

73s & 88s



de the Veep

It's picnic in the park time again. That's right it's time for the SCDXC to make the annual journey to Woodley Park for food fun and raffle prizes. The date is Saturday June 12th at 11:00am plus or minus QRM. Speaking of Raffle prizes the spots on the board for a chance at a Kenwood TS-480HX 200W HF +6m transceiver are just about sold out. You can buy a spot (or several) for \$10.00 each at the picnic or by mail. For information contact me at n6dhz@scdxc.org. You do not need to be present to win. We need everyone to bring a side dish (salads, beans, chips, fruit, deserts etc.) The club will supply all the Tri-Tip, chicken, burgers, dogs and drinks. So get the YL or the OM and the Harmonics together and come spend a fun day in the park. Check the web page for details. The picnic will be the June Meeting.



I'm sure most of you have been reading a lot about BPL (broadband over power line) lately. At this point it looks like the reality is that sooner or later BPL will be coming to a neighborhood near you.

While I have seen arguments for and against the technology, I think there is one other aspect that needs to be addressed by the amateur community. The FCC says for everyone not to worry as they will not tolerate interference caused by the BPL providers. That sounds good right? The problem comes in when there is some interference and the amount of time it takes for the problem to be addressed. The FCC moves at the speed of a glacier; for that matter, so do most bureaucracies including the ARRL.

I personally have been involved with a case of

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held July 8, 2004 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot. Please do not park in the school lot. Note there is no regular meeting in June.

See ya at the Picnic!



Bubba's place

Hello to all from my little corner. The Visalia feed-back keeps coming in, I never thought so many people would still be talking about the good time that was had in Visalia. Not one negative, a real testament to the folks that worked so hard.

The May meeting was well attended and I would like to welcome two new members, Tom, AD6TS and Peter, K2IXQ. K6YUI (Mr. on top of it) was ready with all paper work.

Jim, W6YA, had a great presentation on his trip to Slovenia. I sure enjoy the pictures and stories. I would guess by his enthusiasm he had a wonderful time and made a lot of friends and memories. Thanks Jim.

Bob, N6OX brought us up to date on his upcoming DXpeditions (OH OH, another one canceled?). His next trip to Russia will be June 10th. I will take him to the airport and he will spend about 2 1/2 weeks there. He will fly to Moscow and meet with Andy, EU7SA and his son Andy Jr. They will meet with Vlad, UA3FDX and a member of the Peter 1 DXpedi-

tion team. Bob will work on the air from Moscow as R3/N6OX. He will give me a sched and will try and make some contacts.

Bob will then go by train to Belarus and attend Andy Jr.'s graduation from the equivalent of our high school. Little Andy, will then start collage with the goal of becoming a doctor. His gift will be a laptop and I'm sure it will be a useful tool for him. Bob will also be on the bands in Belarus from the EU7SA station. If you need Belarus, keep in touch with me and I will give you schedule of times. I can guarantee a card! I hope the neighbors will be OK this time. Last time he left them all in a huff, something about TVI. We will more than likely only hear him in the wee hours.....their time. I am sure there will be parties, Piva (beer) and Vodka and of course the obligatory visit to the Banya (bathhouse). You go Bob!

The raffle had a lot of great prizes. Congrats to Mel, K6SY, on the GPS, W7RF, the low pass filter and all the other winners. I won another 1 years subscription to World radio. I won one in Visalia too.....2 years is good.

Note to Herb, KG6OK, I have done the only thing I can, and that is keep you in my prayers and I wish you a speedy recovery. Hope to see you soon.

Bubbas out of words.
73, Bob, W6ZPL

SCDXC Annual Picnic

Saturday June 12, 2004 at 11:00am plus or minus QRM

The SCDXC Picnic will be held Saturday June 12 at Woodley park in Van Nuys. Once again Keith, K6LD, our resident gourmet cook will be at the spatula cooking up the tri-tip, chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers. We are asking those that attend to bring along a side dish to share with the others. Please contact Jim, N6DHZ at n6dhz@scdxc.org and let him know what you plan to bring or to see if he needs a particular side dish.

We will have the usual raffle as well as the raffle board for a Kenwood TS-480. The spots are \$10.00 ea and are going fast. Spots can be bought at the May meeting from Jim, N6DHZ or by mail on a first come first serve basis by sending your check made payable to SCDXC to Jim Shryne, N6DHZ; 10301 Maybrook Ave., Whittier, CA 90603-2620. Spots must be paid for prior to the raffle. Any spots not paid prior to the raffle for will be auctioned off at the picnic.

Propagation January 2002

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month. Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 105, corresponding to a sunspot number of 57, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

KP2 Virgin Islands - 6/5 to 6/12 - Beam 94 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset (on 6/9) 0948/2250
 80: 0500-0900.
 40: 0300-0930.
 20: 0000-1200.
 15: 2300-0430.

JW Svalbard - 6/7 to 6/14 - Beam 9 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset (on 6/11) 2240/2240
 20: 0030-0530 and 0700-1330.

FO French Polynesia - 6/14 to 6/15 - Beam 214 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset (on 6/15) 1628/0325
 80: 0600-1200.
 40: 0400-1300.
 20: 0200-1330.
 15: 1600-1030.
 10: 2000-0330.

HI Dominican Republic - 6/11 to 6/24 - Beam 97 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset (on 6/18) 1009/2314
 80: 0400-1000.
 40: 0200-1030.
 20: 2300-1330.
 15: 0330-0430.

HB0 Liechtenstein - 6/19 to 6/25 - Beam 33 degrees
 Sunrise/sunset (on 6/22) 0336/1912
 20: 0100-0630.

A QUIZ

In the past few months some manufacturers of High-End Ham gear have announced new "Super Radios". Specifications are quoted that are hard for the average ham to understand. An interesting exercise is to look up these specified parameters and determine if they really represent characteristics important to the ham. Or, are they just marketing numbers?

Here is a short list of advertised features. Can you tell us why the feature is important.

Receiver sensitivity. Look at the way the specs are given for different modes and bandwidths.

Transmitter distortion (rf and audio)

Receiver third order intercept distortion.

Receiver Image rejection

Send the editor your understanding of these specifications and tell us what characteristics are the most important to you. The editors email address is:
 harv@scdxc.com



Propagation testing receiver used in 1953

Notes from a VY experience

KJ6Y was in VY a few weeks ago working on antennas and filling a few log sheets. Here are some of his notes from that trip.



Here I am on top of the 150 ft 20 meter tower. 6 elements at 155 ft, 6 elements at 80 ft and 4 elements at 60 ft fixed on Europe. I went up there for a week of antenna work. Had 2 large cranes and removed the 2 6 element beams and the upper rotator. Also remove the rotator from the 140 ft 40 meter tower. Once on the ground I retuned and rebalance the 20 meter beams and got the rotators repaired. Reinstalled the antennas and rotators and checked out the cable color codes. Also re-

place the 100 ft length of coax cable from the top 20 meter beam to the phasing switch box. Got everything back up and on the air around 7:30PM Friday evening, just in time for the WPXCW contest. Ken, VY2TT/K6LA operated the contest SO2R. I went and did a little sightseeing around the Island. I was able to get on the air a few times in the evening and made about 375 Qs. It's amazing how loud Europe is from there. I'll be going back sometime this summer to



get the 15 meter tower and antennas up and will try to get on at that time, so if you missed working me and you want that very rare QSL card from VY2/KJ6Y, keep an eye on the bulletins and hope to hear from you.

73's

Skip, VY2/KJ6Y

The SCDXC Newsletter needs your input.

If you have a story to tell, the newsletter wants to print it!

If you have a photo to share, the newsletter wants to print it!

If you have a "special" QSL, the newsletter wants to print it!

Can you tell us about that new radio? Then the newsletter wants to print it!

The newsletter needs a supply of pictures and articles. You can help. Send your stuff to harv@scdxc.org and accept our thanks.



Ronald Reagan—SK on June 5 at age 93

de the Veeep

intentional interference that is before the FCC and it has been dragging on for over 2-1/2 years.

While the FCC seemed to be doing something at first, it seems now, at least on the surface, that they are unable or unwilling to do anything. This may just be the appearance and something may be getting accomplished, but I'm no longer getting replies to my e-mails so who knows what is really going on.

Yet another example is a friend who has been dealing with interference from his large utility company for years now. Every time it takes months to get anything done and half the time the utility people don't even know how to figure out what the problem is. At one point the engineer from a neighboring city-owned utility came over and found several problems and identified them for my friend. This way he could tell the people working for the major utility just what needed to be fixed.

The point to all this is that we can't trust to the FCC to ensure that interference will be handled. If it takes years for them to do something about a jammer who freely identifies himself, how long do you think it will take to get something done about a BPL provider with deep pockets?

Some of those companies could tie the FCC up in appeals, replies, requests, and hearings, etc. for decades.

The FCC is kind of like the "very small" city where my brother lives: they have a city council whose members just love to make rules, regulations and laws. But what happens when it comes time to enforce these rules and regulations? Nothing! Why? Well they make the laws, but have no one to enforce them. They spend their time enacting new ordinances so the council members can feel good about themselves and then they can say "we did something". And, just like the FCC, enforcement is almost non-existent.

Soon the "small town city council" members of the FCC's board of commissioners will also be telling everyone "we did something" and nothing will be enforced.

I would be the first person to tell you I'm not always happy with the ARRL. Especially recently as I personally got the shaft by them, but I think on this issue they have been doing a good job. It's an uphill battle and they need the support of every amateur on this issue.

So, maybe we can say "we did something" even if they don't feel good about it.

Okay, I have the soapbox put away and hopefully everyone has not turned the page already. Has anyone seen 75m? I can't seem to find any signals, how long is it until winter anyway?

I'd like to thank Jim, W6YA for making the long trip up for the May meeting, his program on Slovenia was very entertaining. I'm looking for programs for future meetings so if you have been somewhere recently or know someone who would like to come by the club meeting and give a presentation let me know.

It was a great honor for me to be able to accept the plaque for Harvey, K6EXO at Visalia and present it to him at the May meeting. Harvey has spent over 15 years on the board of the club and much of our success is due to him. He also puts out one of the best newsletters I have seen from a club. I want to encourage everyone to submit something to help Harvey with the newsletter, even if it is just some interesting QSL cards from your collection.

The summer bash is coming up in August and Sharon (aka Wild Woman) has graciously agreed to let Wayne, W6IRD have it at her house again this year. If you haven't been to the bash at Wayne & Sharon's you really need to try to make it. Wayne has a fascinating shop full of Collins gear and Sharon is always the perfect host for a party. You can get details on the Bash on the web site.

Don't forget that the June meeting will be the picnic.

73 DE Jim, N6DHz

CQ Contests

The following contests are sponsored by CQ magazine.

[CQ World Wide 160-meter Contest](#)
[CQ World Wide WPX Contest](#)
[CQ World Wide RTTY Contest](#)
[CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest](#)
[CQ World Wide DX Contest](#)
[CQ World Wide VHF Contest](#)

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

Please tell the picnic people to change the raffle prize to be a new Yaesu FT DX-9000 like this picture.



Thanks
Lou

Editor,

I was at the hospital last nite. "Tony" K6FR is getting a pace maker today. I drove Kay his wife there last nite. He is doing well, but is weak with a low pulse rate. No damage to his heart.

W6YY

New info

Tony is now at home

Editor,

KG6OK was on 17 this morning.

N6HY

Editor,

AD6SU has finished a second round of chemotherapy.



Editor,

The IEEE EMC, Los Angeles Chapter, meets in the **Lunch Room** of WEMS, Inc. on the third Thursday of the Month. **This month's meeting is June 17, 2004 and starts at 6:00 PM.** The cost is FREE and a light dinner and soft drinks are provided. The address of WEMS, Inc. is 4650 West Rosecrans Ave. in Hawthorne, CA. It is located about 1/2 mile east of I-405 on the South side of the street. The parking is also FREE. The June program topic is "EMC Measurements for Satellite Electric Propulsion." The speaker will be Edward J. Beiting, Ph.D., Senior Scientist - Aerospace Corp. The meetings are open to anyone with an interest in the subject and wishing to attend. Please RSVP to Mel Hughes by Wednesday, Noon (the day before the meeting) at 310-644-0251.

de Mel, K6SY

BPL Info Available Online

Both the ARRL and CQ are making information about BPL available for hams to use in learning about the situation and helping to explain it to others. The ARRL has a brief non-technical PDF file available, called "Broadband over Power Line: Why Amateur Radio is Concerned about its deployment." It can be downloaded at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/BPL-leave-behind.pdf>.

CQ has a webpage, accessible from all of its magazine home pages, with links to articles, recordings of BPL interference, and BPL "talking points". The CQ "BPL Info Center" is at <http://www.cq-vhf.com/BPL.html>.

Surf the Internet

Check out www.N6AQ.com a very interesting web page.

Telnet into the DX CLUSTER?
Full information can be found at:

<http://www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/Misc/cluster.html>

Members are constructing station stuff.

de N6OU

The May 2004 QST has on it's a cover the Deluxe HF Receiver Multicoupler. By Jim Garland, W8ZR. The unit has been built by three members of the club, N6OU, W6OES and WA6BOB. WHAT IS IT? The W8ZR Multicontroller is a broadband antenna distribution amplifier for hams and SWLs who have several receivers and need a convenient way to switch among them. It has inputs for both 50 ohm and high-Z antennas, with active outputs for up to 8 receivers.

The multicoupler spans 0.1-55 MHz, with an optional filter to screen local AM broadcast band signals. It also can mute any combination of up to

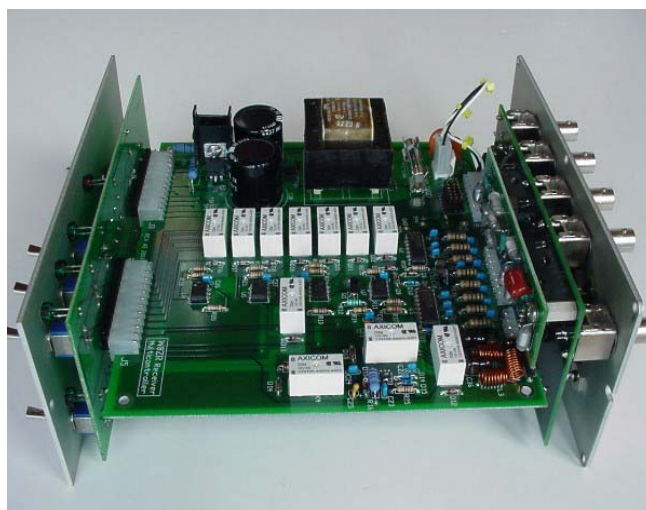


seven receivers, so that comparing receiver performance or switching between receivers in a contest is just a matter of flipping a switch. In addition, the multicoupler has a control input that can be used to mute simultaneously all the connected receivers. Hook up the control jack to your transceiver's external relay line and all the receivers in your station will mute when you transmit. An overload circuit automatically disconnects the receivers if dangerous RF voltage is induced onto your receiving antenna

Another useful feature is a wideband +12 dB low noise preamplifier to perk up older vacuum tube receivers and help compensate for poor antennas. In addition, the high-Z antenna input can be used to match short wire antennas to 50 ohm receivers. What this all means is that the multicoupler can greatly simplify your station's operation, since you won't have to hook up a snarl of cables when you want to change, evaluate, and compare your receivers <http://www.miami.muohio.edu/president/personal/w8zr/multicontroller/index.htm> After reading the article and downloading the docu-

mentation I could not resist ordering the kit and the parts. The documentation was extremely thorough. It includes A Users Manual with Specifications, Assembly instructions with step by step instructions with color pictures for construction and testing the unit, Mechanical drawings of the enclosure, Schematic drawings, Parts and Supplier List and Component List. The parts list was also downloadable an MS excel spread sheet which was copied into the Mouser BOM Order Form on the internet thereby saving one the joy of typing the entire parts list. His parts lists gave alternate parts sources including our local All Electronics. There are drawings to drill and punch your own enclosure if you are so inclined. Upon receiving the pre punched and silk screened cabinet I was elated at the quality and fit. Circular holes that are actually round ! No Point to point wiring in this kit. Even with a lighted magnifier lamp this still present an eye test on some of the parts.

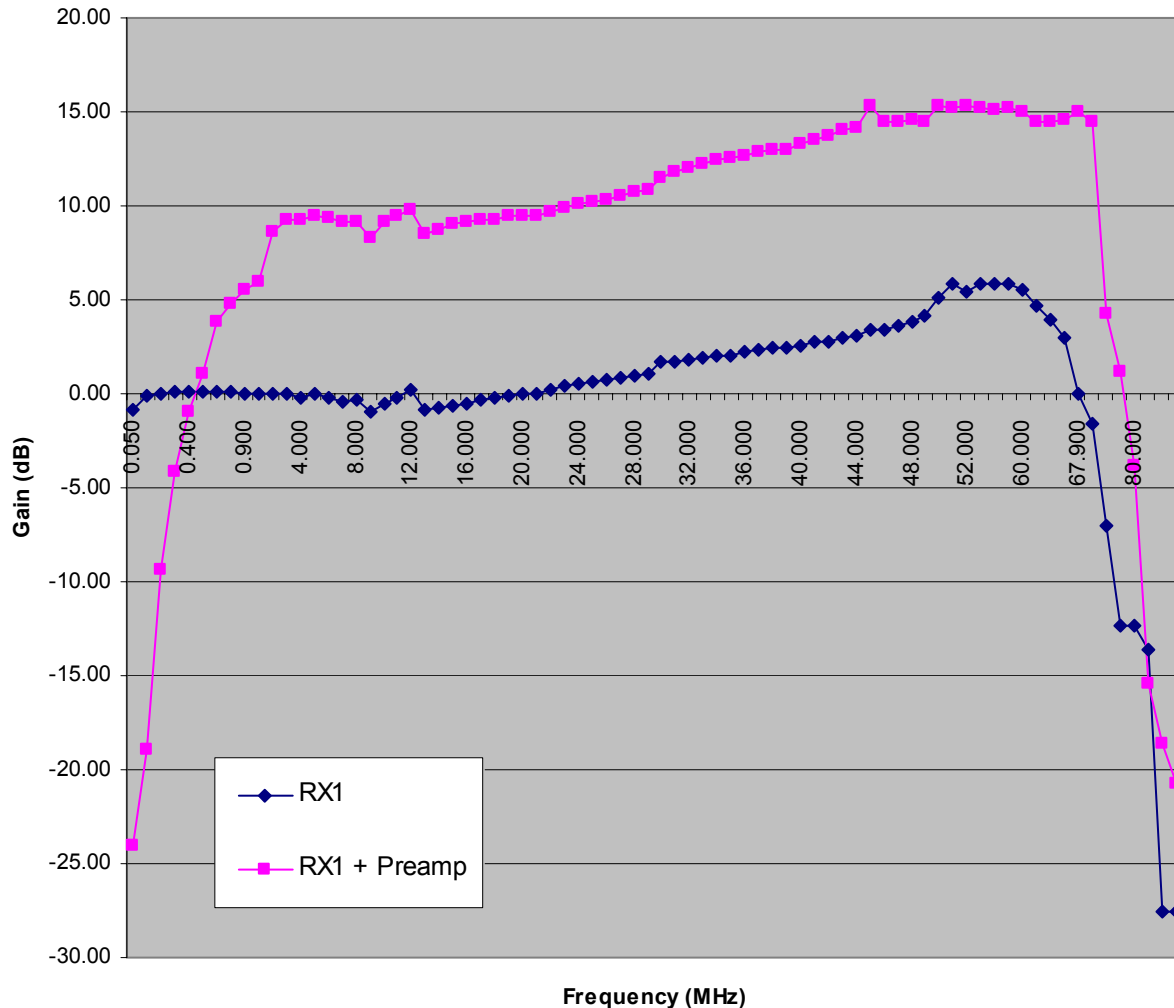
I only ran into one problem during construction and that was a tantalum capacitor installed backwards that caused the relays to buzz like it had AC on them and finally blow the fuse. After locating the short and replacing the cap properly the unit works like a charm. Tektronix and HP should be trembling in their boots at this type of homebrew lab quality construction. Of course I had to drag out the test equipment and see if it met the Specs. It passed with flying colors. See graph I built but did not need the LF/AM Filter at this location but was told by WA6BOB that it cut off at 75 meters. Besides coupling receivers you can feed the outputs to a spectrum analyzer, deviation meter, frequency counter



www.miami.muohio.edu/president/personal/w8zr/multicontroller/index.htm

or oscilloscope at the same time. This also provides an easy way to check the calibration of your millivolt meters or microwatt meters without having to switch cables

BTW you need one of these to compare your new IC-7800 or FTDX9000 against your existing receivers....This is a wonderful 5 Star project. Get infected with joy of home brewing again! I am going back to collecting parts for my EZ-Tuner, N6OU....Will have unit at picnic for inspection. Checkout Jim's website <http://www.miami.muohio.edu/president/personal/w8zr/>



Frequency Response as Measured by on W8ZR HF Multicoupler built by N6OU



Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

The SCDXC generally permits re-use of any article in the Newsletter as long as the newsletter and the article's author are credited. However, some articles may be copyrighted by the author. Please contact the editor.

Club Repeater: W6AM/R
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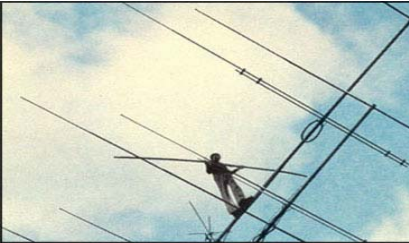
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For Sale Wanted to Buy Services Offered

Members of the SCDXC may submit ads to the editor for publication in the newsletter.

There is no cost to the member.

Please note the deadline for all copy submitted is the 20th of the month preceding publication.

**Expert Tower and Antenna
Installation, Sales and Service
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e mail KJ6Y@aol.com
[http://members.aol.com/
kj6y/skip.html](http://members.aol.com/kj6y/skip.html)

**COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE COMPANY**

Now that's a ham rig! This photograph of the Space Shuttle Atlantis docked with the Russian Mir space stations was taken by Nikolai Budarin from a Russian Soyuz spacecraft on July 4, 1995. During this mission astronauts answered questions from school students over amateur radio.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal

Return to membership chairman: Larry Mallek 2528 Britain Way, Anaheim CA, 92801-1413

CALL _____ NAME _____ DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

HOME TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____ WORK TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____

SCDXC Dues are \$18.00 per year, make checks payable to SCDXC